

THIRD BEST 'GATE'

WYCOMBE Wanderers' tie at Cardiff on Saturday attracted the third largest crowd of the day in the F.A. Cup second round. The gate at Ninian Park totalled 11,607 and a good proportion of them made the three hour journey from High Wycombe. The Blues' support, in fact, was excellent throughout the game.

Best crowd of the day was at the London local derby between Millwall and Crystal Palace. A total of 14,902 packed into the Den to watch the 1-1 draw while Sheffield Wednesday attracted 12,436 for their tie against non-league Wigan.

Coventry Sporting used the Coventry City ground at Highfield Road for their game against Peterborough and were watched by a crowd of 8,556, by far the biggest gate in Sporting's history. Meanwhile Hendon must have been disappointed with only 3,349 at Claremont Road. After their win against Reading in the previous round, they deserved a better attendance for the Swindon tie.

It's bleak for non-leaguers

IT was a bleak day for the non-league clubs in the F.A. Cup second round on Saturday. Of the 13 matches involving non-league teams, only one of them got through to the third round — Northerners Scarborough.

Wycombe Wanderers' narrow defeat at Cardiff was one of the top performances of the round, for several other non-league clubs lost by heavier margins.

One of the main surprises was Wimbledon's 2-0 home defeat by Brentford, although manager Allen Batsford obviously wasn't happy with the game and was booked for protesting one of the goals. After the Dons' success last year in the cup, this reverse must have been hard to stomach.

Scarborough's victory came against Third Division Preston and they hit back to win 3-2 after trailing 2-1 at half time. Their reward was a home tie with the winners of the Crystal Palace-Millwall replay.

Three non-league clubs managed to draw.

Gateshead, who are a former Football League club, held Rochdale to a 1-1 draw after trailing at half time while Marine drew with Hartlepool by the same margin. The two Rothmans Isthmian League teams, Leatherhead and Tooting, fought out a goalless draw at Fetcham Grove and the winners, travel to Swindon in the next round — a rather disappointing draw.

Hendon put up a fighting display against Swindon at Claremont Road and were unlucky not to take the lead early on. A penalty by Moss ended their hopes in the second half.

Another Isthmian League club, Bishop's Stortford, did well to hold Aldershot in the first half, but two goals after the break were enough to put the Third Division club into round three.

Northern Leaguers Spennymoor were given little change when they took on the powerful Bury side, going down 3-0 while Peterborough United made no mistake at Coventry. The Posh won 4-0 against Coventry Sporting and over the last three years have proved that by playing an all-out attacking game, they can expose the gap in class between league and non-league clubs.

Wigan Athletic, giant-killers in recent years, went down 2-0 to Sheffield Wednesday at Hillsbrough, but were level at half time while Dover, of the Southern League, were hit by a three goal blitz before the break at Southend. Stafford Rangers, who also did well last year, lost out 3-1 at home to Halifax.